

[22 February, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

amounting to Rs. 82.10 crore and Central share of CRF for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 21.55 crore, in advance, have been released. In addition, assistance from the National Calamity contingency Fund amounting to Rs. 35.00 crore have been released.

Efficient administrative system for relief during natural Calamities

†93. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the need for a specifically efficient administrative system has recently been felt to provide relief and protection to common people at the time of a devastation caused by natural calamities in the country;

(b) if so, when such need was felt and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Institutional arrangements exist at the National, State and District level for management of natural disasters. In the event of earthquake in Gujarat, Government of India in coordination with the State Governments and in association with the Armed Forces launched a massive emergency relief operation. There is no denying the fact that machinery should be efficient and active in responding to the crisis situation and there is always room and necessity for improvement in the administrative response based on lessons learnt from the previous experiences.

A National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up by the Government of India on 13th February, 2001 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister having the representatives of the Presidents of the National and State Level Political Parties. The National Committee will *inter-alia* deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and

^tOriginal notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future. The 1st meeting of the Committee was held on 18.2.2001.

Assessment of destruction in recent earthquake

†94. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official assessment has been made with regard to scale of destruction in the country due to recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the assessment with regard to total loss of lives and property; and

(c) the monetary loss with regard to different items such as destruction of industry, agriculture, infrastructure and houses separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The earthquake of 26th January, 2001 has caused colossal damage to life and property in various parts of Gujarat. No report on damage due to the earthquake has been received from the other parts of the country.

According to the estimates of damage, as assessed by the Government of Gujarat, damage has been estimated at Rs. 21,262 crore, as indicated below:

	(Rs. in Crore)
Personal properties	387.00
Household properties	11195.00
Public utilities	600.00
Public infrastructure & amenities	1080.00
Industrial establishment	5000.00
Commerical establishment	3000.00

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.